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Economic and Social Council

Provisional

21 February 2008

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Organizational session of 2008

Provisional summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 5 February 2008, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. Mérorès ..... (Haiti)

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08-22767 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2006/70, E/2006/87, E/2007/22, E/2008/1, E/2008/2 and E/2008/L.1)

1. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Council) drew attention to corrections to the proposed provisional agenda for the substantive session contained in section I of document E/2008/1 and to an informal paper containing the list of issues before the organizational session of 2008.

The meeting was suspended at 10.30 a.m. and resumed at 10.35 a.m.

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/2007/22)

2. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions (E/2007/22). He took it that the Council wished to take note of the report.

3. *It was so decided.*

Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies: draft annex relating to the World Tourism Organization (E/2006/70)

4. **The President** said that he would consult with the Bureau regarding the timing of the Council's further consideration of the draft annex on the privileges and immunities of the specialized agencies with respect to the World Tourism Organization, bearing in mind Council decision 2007/247.

Application of an intergovernmental organization for observer status with the Council (E/2006/87)

5. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to further defer consideration of the application of the International Emergency Management Organization for observer status with the Council to a later date.

6. *It was so decided.*

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

7. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to defer its consideration of the question of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to a later date.

8. *It was so decided.*

Promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development

9. **The President** drew attention to the proposal to include a discussion on promoting an integrated approach to rural development in developing countries for poverty eradication and sustainable development as part of the work of its substantive session of 2008. Delegations were requested to hold informal consultations as soon as possible so that a proposal could be presented to the Council for action by the end of the week.

10. **The President** drew attention to the draft proposals contained in document E/2008/L.1, submitted by the Bureau on the basis of informal consultations held pursuant to paragraph 2 (I) of Council decision 1988/77.

Draft decision I: Proposed date of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

11. *Draft decision I was adopted.*

Draft decision II: Provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2008 of the Economic and Social Council

12. *Draft decision II, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Draft decision III: Basic programme of work of the Economic and Social Council for 2009

13. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to take note of the list of questions for inclusion in the programme of work of the Council for 2009.

14. *It was so decided.*

Draft decision IV: Working arrangements for the substantive session of 2008 of the Economic and Social Council

15. *Draft decision IV was adopted.*

16. **The President** said that the division of responsibilities for the 2008 substantive session would be as follows: high-level segment and dialogue with the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions — Ambassador Léo Mérorès of Haiti (President of the Council); coordination segment — Ambassador Antonio Pedro Monteiro Lima of Cape Verde; operational activities segment — Ambassador Andrei Dapkiunas of Belarus; humanitarian affairs segment — Ambassador Kim Hyun Chong of the Republic of Korea; general segment — Ambassador Jean-Marc Hoscheit of Luxembourg.

Draft decision V: Theme for the 2008 thematic discussion of the Economic and Social Council

17. **The President** said that informal consultations would be held on draft decision V.

Draft decision VI: Operational activities segment of the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

18. *Draft decision VI was adopted.*

Draft decision VII: Theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

19. **The President** said that informal consultations would be held on draft decision VII.

Draft decision VIII: Theme for the item on regional cooperation of the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

20. **Mr. Blake** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that regional cooperation was of particular interest to the Group of 77; since it had not had sufficient time to review the draft decision prior to the meeting, it wished to request a brief suspension.

21. *It was so decided.*

The meeting was suspended at 11.10 a.m. and resumed at 11:35 a.m.

22. **Mr. Blake** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group would like to have the theme in writing so that it could consider it with the seriousness it deserved. It hoped to be in a position to report back to the Council by the end of the week.

23. **The President** said that the Secretariat would circulate the exact wording of the theme. He took note of the fact that the Group of 77 and China would report back to the Council by the end of the week at the latest on the outcome of its consultations.

Possible joint event of the operational activities and humanitarian affairs segments

24. **The President** said that the Council would revert to the matter at a later date.

Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments (*continued*) (E/2008/9 and E/2008/9/Add.1)

Commission for Social Development

25. **The President** said that the Group of Eastern European States had endorsed Slovakia to fill the outstanding vacancy in that Group on the Commission for Social Development. He took it that the Council wished to elect Slovakia by acclamation to the Commission for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring at the close of the Commission's forty-ninth session in 2011.

26. *It was so decided.*

27. *Slovakia was elected a member of the Commission for Social Development.*

Committee of Experts on Public Administration

28. **The President** said that, as a result of the death of Mr. Dennis Rondinelli of the United States of America, a vacancy had arisen in the Committee of Experts on Public Administration. He took it that the Council wished to approve the nomination by the Secretary-General of Ms. Jennifer Dorn of the United States of America, who would serve on the Committee in her personal capacity for a term beginning immediately and expiring on 31 December 2009.

29. *It was so decided.*

Resignation of three members of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

30. **The President** drew the Council's attention to document E/2008/9/Add.1, in which the Council was advised of the resignation of three members of the

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, namely Mr. Pascal Saint-Amans of France, Ms. Patricia Brown of the United States of America and Mr. Nobuyuki Nakamura of Japan. The Secretary-General had decided to appoint Mr. Christian Comolet-Tirman of France, Ms. Liselott Kana of Chile and Mr. Robin Oliver of New Zealand to complete the terms of office of Mr. Saint-Amans, Ms. Brown and Mr. Nakamura.

31. He took it that the Council wished to take note of the three new appointments made by the Secretary-General.

32. *It was so decided.*

Resignation of a member of the Programme Coordination Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

33. **The President** said that Norway had recently resigned from the Board and that the Group of Western European and other States had endorsed Denmark to complete the unexpired portion of Norway's term. In the absence of any other candidate, he took it that the Council wished to elect Denmark to complete the unexpired portion of Norway's term of office, beginning immediately and expiring on 31 December 2008.

34. *It was so decided.*

35. *Denmark was elected a member of the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.*

The meeting rose at 11:40 a.m.